



From the desk of President & CEO Orion Bell

Grandma Never Learned to Drive

My grandmother never learned to drive. For most of her life, this was never a problem. My grandfather drove her. She lived along the bus line. She could walk to the market or the department store. In a pinch, she could take a taxi.

After Granddad passed away, Grandma was still able to find a ride when she needed one. Family lived nearby: my dad, my brother, an uncle and me. There were church members—my sister-in-law refers to them as the Baptist Mafia—who made sure she made it to Sunday School. And any family gathering included her. Her house was on the way. She travelled with the senior choir and took trips to see the grandchildren out of state. A lifetime without driving had made her resourceful. She almost always found a ride.

Almost.

Read the full article at benrose.org/ceo-blog.

Benjamin Rose Staff at ASA

Staff from Benjamin Rose presented at the Aging in America Conference presented by the [American Society on Aging](https://www.asa-usa.org/) in New Orleans this month. Presentations included:

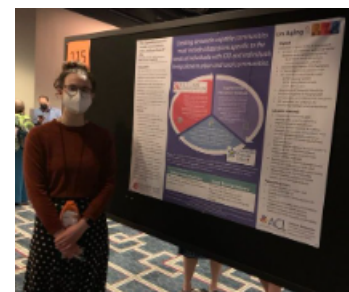
Addressing the Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic by Addressing Client Needs and Providing Services in Innovative Ways, **Orion Bell, President & CEO**

Aging in Place During and Post-Pandemic, **Michael Billnitzer, Executive Director, ESOP & Elizabeth Sanchez, Homeownership Manager, ESOP**

Expanding Dementia-Capable Communities in Urban and Rural Areas of Ohio, **Christa Wilk, Research Assistant (pictured at right)**

Leaving No Story Untold: The Development of a Reminiscence Therapy Intervention for Persons Living with Dementia, **Christa Wilk, Research Assistant**

Overcoming the Digital Divide, **Michael Billnitzer, Executive Director, ESOP & Antoinette Smith, Director of Housing and Financial Counseling, ESOP (pictured at right)**



Bingo Night Fundraiser

Join us Friday, May 13 from 6 – 8 p.m. for food, drinks and bingo!
Presented by the Benjamin Rose Young Professional Council.

TICKETS:

Regular Ticket: \$20 in advance (\$25 at the door)

Regular Ticket includes Chipotle burrito or bowl and one drink ticket.
Bingo boards sold separately.

VIP Ticket: \$50

VIP Ticket includes Chipotle burrito or bowl, two drink tickets, regular bingo board and digital recognition at the event.

A pack of five bingo boards is available at the event for \$5. Win prizes each round and help support the mission of Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging! [Buy your tickets.](#)



May is Older American's Month

Older adults play vital, positive roles in our communities – as family members, friends, mentors, volunteers, civic leaders, members of the workforce and more. Just as every person is unique, so too is how they age and how they choose to do it – and there is no “right” way. That’s why the theme for Older Americans Month (OAM) 2022 is Age My Way.



#OlderAmericansMonth | ACL.gov/OAM

Every May, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads the celebration of OAM. This year’s theme focuses on how older adults can age in their communities, living independently for as long as possible and participating in ways they choose.

This year, Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging is excited to celebrate OAM with our partners in the aging community. Diverse communities are strong communities. Ensuring that older adults remain involved and included in our communities for as long as possible benefits everyone. Join us in celebrating the older adults in our communities during the month of May.

Making the Most of Mealtime: Eating, Swallowing and Dignified Dining for Individuals with Dementia and IDD

Eating and food are at the center of many of life’s occasions, celebrations and moments together with loved ones. Of course, eating is also a necessity—we rely on nutrition and hydration to survive. But what happens to these important and essential moments when dementia affects a loved one’s eating? In what ways can a loved one’s ability to interact with food begin to change?



Join us for a webinar on Monday, May 23 from 1 - 2 p.m. that will explain some of the changes that may make mealtime challenging when caring for someone with dementia and provide tips on how to set up the eating environment for successful mealtimes. The presentation will also focus on swallowing disorders for individuals with dementia and intellectual and developmental disabilities, and how to balance safety concerns while ensuring a dignified dining experience. [Register now!](#)

Upcoming Programs

Second Wednesdays with Benjamin Rose

[Learn about Benjamin Rose from President & CEO, Orion Bell.](#) May 11, 9—10 a.m.



Homebuyer Education

[Learn the important basics of the homebuying process during this four-day workshop.](#) May 16—19, 6 - 8 p.m.

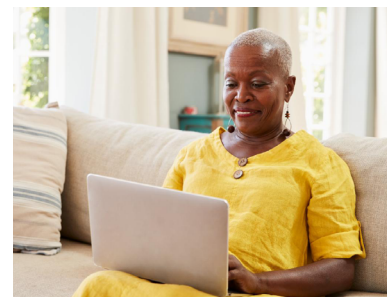
Senior Financial Education Workshops

[Virtual workshops to help older adults take charge of their finances.](#) Monday—Friday, every other week beginning at 10 a.m.

Resources for Caregiving

Visit our Resource Library to find tips and useful information for caregivers.

Each month, we add new content to help caregivers manage a loved one's care, navigate challenges and take care of themselves. Recent articles explore topics such as [managing a loved one with dementia's sensory challenges](#) and [how to hold family meetings to discuss an older loved one's care](#).



Volunteers Needed

Are you looking for a rewarding way to give back to the community? Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging is urgently seeking volunteers to assist with our expanding meal delivery program. We are in need of volunteers willing to deliver meals in their own vehicles, Monday—Friday from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. [More information and volunteer sign-up.](#)



Staff Notes

Tamar Cooper, LICDC-CS, LISW-S, Director of Behavioral Health Services, was interviewed about romance and cyber scams aimed at older adults on the [Feisty Side of Fifty](#).

Tamar Cooper and Tahira Wilson, Mental Health Worker, were featured on [Spectrum 1 News](#) discussing their new cybercrime support group for older adults.

Julie Hayes, Content Manger, authored an article titled [Spring Cleaning Can Make Your Home Environment Safer](#) for Next Avenue.

Minzhi Ye, PhD, Research Analyst, presented *A Smart System for Older Adults with Dementia Who Have Risks of Self-Neglect* at the Emerging Technologies for Aging and Dementia Conference.

Benjamin Rose staff continue to provide informative articles for caregivers for the faith-based online publication Guideposts:

[Steps to Guard Against Dementia-Related Wandering](#) by **Cathy Franz**

[Tips for Successful Family Meetings](#) by **Lauri Scharf**